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Ministry of Education

## EDUCATION MINISTER HONOURS AWARD-WINNING PRINCIPALS

KELOWNA – Local principals Scott McLean, Sandra Sellick and Janet Slaney joined Education Minister Shirley Bond in the legislature today for an Education Week ceremony in recognition of their Canada's Outstanding Principal Awards.

"The Central Okanagan school district and the Province are very fortunate to have three such dedicated principals," said Bond. "Their leadership and passion for education have reached far beyond the borders of their district for the benefit of all B.C.'s students."

McLean, principal at Springvalley middle school, began his teaching career in Alberta 18 years ago and began teaching in Kelowna in 1995. During his tenure, he has introduced programs geared to meet the needs of at-risk students; overseen a library expansion, which made it the hub of the school; worked with staff to develop literacy programs to improve student achievement and worked with staff to develop social responsibility goals that saw students doing service projects that benefited the school and community. From 2004-2006 McLean served as the president of the Central Okanagan Principal's and Vice Principal's Association.

Sellick has been a principal for the past 17 years, most recently at Anne McClymont elementary school. While she was at Anne McClymont, the school received the exemplary reading program award for B.C. from the International Reading Association. Sellick's school improvement initiatives have focused on enriching students' writing and reading comprehension through the use of performance standards, empathy, and engagement in science. Sellick has a life-long commitment to her own learning, having completed degrees at Simon Fraser University, the University of Victoria and Nova Southeastern University, including a doctorate in educational leadership.

"Scott, Sandra and Janet have been incredible role models to both students and teachers," said Hawkins. "They have inspired and enriched those around them simply by sharing their skills and experiences. I am so pleased they are being recognized for their dedication to their students, staff and the promotion of higher learning."

In 1993, after five years of teaching, Slaney ventured into the realm of administration. Since then, her focus has been on maintaining a positive connection with students outside of the principal's office. Slaney worked closely with her staff at Rutland elementary school to create the Literacy Initiative Program, which divides the students into homogeneous groups for one period a day, to receive direct instruction in the area of greatest concern. This has provided her with the opportunity to work with several small groups of students across the grade spectrum in a variety of curriculum, maintaining her connection to the students.

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"Janet, Sandra and Scott are true leaders in our community," said Horning. "We are very lucky to have them in our school district, especially since all three yield strong education backgrounds. It's truly a delight for the students, parents and staff."

"Our school district is honoured to have three of our principals recognized for this prestigious award," said Moyra Baxter, chair of the Central Okanagan school board. "Their leadership throughout the district has really made a positive impact in so many of our schools."

McLean, Sellick and Slaney are among 32 national recipients of the Canada's Outstanding Principals award, an initiative of The Learning Partnership, a national not-for-profit organization dedicated to championing a strong public education system in Canada. Canada's Outstanding Principals program honours the extraordinary contributions of dynamic education leaders in publicly funded schools. Principals, who have made a measurable difference in the lives of their students and their own local communities and help ensure that Canada's young people continue to receive a quality education, have been selected from across the country for the prestigious honour.

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